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*Renae Brantley; Editor  
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Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit



## Congratulations to Sojourner Truth House on Incorporating New Board Of Directors

Sojourner Truth House proudly announces the creation of a new Board of Directors. Eighteen community leaders have joined the inaugural Board. According to Sr. Nora Hahn, PHJC, "creating independent tax-exempt status for the eleven year old ministry will provide the opportunity for greater collaborative opportunities for the ministry". Newly elected board members include: Sister Nora Hahn, PHJC, Chair; Atty. Judy Stanton, Secretary; and James Huson, Treasurer. Other members include: Joseph Thoesen, Susan Cohen, Sylvia Collins, Hue Deggans, Rev. Charles Hensel, Rev. Dr. Alfred Johnson, Gary City Councilwoman Carolyn Rogers, State Senator Earline Rogers, Atty. Joseph Skozen, Kim Bandy, Damion Smith, Dr. Denise Travis, Sister Carleen Wrasman, PHJC and Sister Judian Breitenbach, PHJC. Ex-officio members are Sister Peg Spindler, CSA and a representative from Ancilla Systems Incorporated.

## Limited Time Tax Credits for Sojourner Truth House Donors

Donors interested in receiving Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Tax Credits for donations to Sojourner Truth House may call 219-947-8542 for additional information on the program. Donors receive a tax credit of 50% of the contribution amount, which is subtracted from your state income tax liability. Donations are used for the Emergency Food Assistance program that serves homeless and disadvantaged women and children. Donations can be made online at [www.sojournertruthhouse.com](http://www.sojournertruthhouse.com).



# News...

from Nazareth Home  
Sojourner Truth House

## The Donor Partnership: More Ways to Give

As our partners in the Work of the Spirit, you have given to Nazareth Home and Sojourner Truth House in many different ways. To be sure, every gift, whether it is time, talent or treasure, is deeply valued by each of us who works for or in these ministries. As volunteers, you have given thousands of hours of service translating into several full-time equivalent personnel, which has an enormous impact on the bottom line for each ministry. Some of you share your talents with our ministries, such as cooking, building or repairing items, helping to maintain facilities, etc. Others choose to share their treasure with our ministries. Whatever form your gift has taken is a welcomed treasure to us. In that spirit, I want to share a few methods of gift-giving that may enhance charitable contributions.

1. Donate directly to the ministry of your choice (Nazareth Home and/or Sojourner Truth House)
  - Donate online (see Online Donation Instructions on back page);
  - Donate via mail: mail your contribution directly to the ministry of your choice;
  - Donate via phone: Call 219-947-8542;
2. Employer Matching Gifts. Many employers will match their employees' gifts to charitable organizations. These may include current employees, retirees, board members, etc. Contact the Human Resources office at your workplace for more information.
3. Donate through a United Way campaign. Although neither Sojourner Truth House, nor Nazareth Home are United Way agencies, you may designate these ministries to receive your contribution. When asked to "Designate a LAUW organization", choose "Other." In the space provided, designate the ministry of your choice (i.e. Nazareth Home or Sojourner Truth House) to receive your contribution.
4. Donate through online charitable giving portals. Network For Good and Guide Star both offer donors the option of making gifts to their favorite charities via their respective websites. Since Sojourner Truth House and Nazareth Home are administratively supported by Ancilla Systems Incorporated, when you visit either of these charitable portals, you must designate Ancilla Systems Incorporated as the recipient, and in the Designation box, enter the ministry of your choice to receive the gift. Be assured that 100% of your gift goes directly to the ministry you specify.
5. Designate a ministry in your Will or Estate Plan.

### Nazareth Home

#### New Chefs, Restaurant, Join Gala Event

We are delighted to announce that *Ashley Archer*, Executive Chef at Ameristar Casino in East Chicago, and *Cheryl Molenda*, Chef at The Inn at Aberdeen, in Valparaiso, have joined the lineup of celebrity chefs for the 2009 Gala Chef Tasting. Also joining the featured restaurants is Bartlett's Gourmet Grill and Tavern in Beverly Shores, owned by *Nicole Bissonnette (Bistro 157)* and *Gary Sanders (Miller Bakery Cafe)*, two of our celebrity chefs. We also welcome back *Glen Brooks*, Executive Chef at Hilton Garden Inn in Merrillville, *Carl Lindskog*, Executive Chef at Paparazzi Restaurant in Valparaiso, *Jack Mix*, owner of Comfort's Catering, Schererville, *Terry Zych*, Chairman, Hospitality Administration/Culinary Arts program for Ivy Tech Community College Northwest Region. The featured chefs will provide a sumptuous selection of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, while music

*continued on page 2*

### Sojourner Truth House

#### Walk-A-Thon A Success

Close to 300 supporters joined us on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Gleason Park for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-A-Thon. Twenty-one teams, and dozens more individual participants, staff and volunteers helped to make this annual event a great success. We extend our thanks to the McDonald's Corporation and Ronald McDonald, Dr. Tom Redfield and his staff, who provided much-needed massages for participants, JoJo The Clown, Lady Sax, Jonathon Moorehead (DJ extraordinaire!), Damion Smith (who handled MC duties), and Senator Earline Rogers, who chaired the event! Congratulations to Pat Kelly and her outstanding team who raised more than \$1,500. Stiff competition between STH internal teams resulted in a close win by the STH Team who raised \$2,150. Best wishes to everyone on a job well done! See photo highlights and sponsor and vendor acknowledgements at our website: [www.sojournertruthhouse.com](http://www.sojournertruthhouse.com)

# New Chefs, Restaurant, Join Gala Event

*continued from page 1*

will be provided by the Billy Foster Trio. The Gala is the annual fundraising event that provides operating support for Nazareth Home.

The Gala will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the Hammond Federal Courthouse, 5400 Federal Plaza, from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. Live and Silent Auctions are two highly anticipated features of the event, where guests have the opportunity to bid on a selection of items including entertainment, travel getaways, pampering experiences, sporting events, fine dining, art, and more. Auction items are generously donated by individuals and area businesses. Reservations for the event are \$60/person. Reservations are available by calling 219-947-8542. Raffle tickets may be purchased from any committee member. Corporate sponsorships are available at various levels from \$251 to \$10,000. For more information on corporate sponsorships, call Renae Brantley at 219-947-8559.

Event planning and support are provided by two active groups of volunteers, an Advisory Committee, chaired by long-time Nazareth Home supporter, E. Thomas Collins, and the Gala Planning Committee, co-chaired by Judy Schlosser and Peggy Guernsey. Collins is joined on the Advisory Committee by: Reggie Dotson, Beth Kaminski, Karren Lee, Joanne Markiewicz, Hilda Pabey, Cindi Rucinski, Terry Quinn, Milt Triana, and Janice Moss-Woods. Planning Committee members include: Lillian Beasley, Gretchen Bray, Barbara Dabrowski, Leroy Fassett, Yolanda Herrera, Joyce Koch, Eileen McKern, Maria Orozco, Mary Paquin, and Gloria Pestikas.

## A Special Thank You...

### to Rylee Suarez

The seven-year old dressed up as a pink poodle to sell lemonade and candy at her homemade stand. She made \$18.75, which she donated to Nazareth Home! Rylee is the daughter of volunteer and PRN Christine Suarez. Thanks Rylee, we love you too!

### to Marie DeVoll

Special Thanks to: Marie DeVoll of Schererville, who recently celebrated her 10th birthday and thoughtfully requested that in lieu of birthday presents, guests make donations to Nazareth Home. The total donated was \$165.

### to Everyone that Donated for New Cribs

Hi Friends,

Thanks to everybody who sent money for the cribs! Now all of us can sleep "snug as a bug in a rug" in our new cribs! I hope you'll stop and see us soon. Some kids went home, and I now have three new big brothers, and a new little sister. I'm almost big enough to play with you, too! So thanks again.

'night, 'night!

Love, "Darryl"



### to Nick's Liquors & Dennis Sheffield

Nazareth Home and the Locks of Love charities both benefited from a dare by the family, friends and customers of Dennis Sheffield. Sheffield, the manager of Nick's Liquors on Hohman Avenue in Hammond, had been growing his long, flowing hair for more than 18 years. But the idea of helping not one, but two charities was too enticing to pass up. To sweeten the dare, family, friends and customers all chipped in to encourage Sheffield to take the plunge, and get sheared for charity. They raised \$2,037! Vanis Salon and Day Spa donated the hair cut and styling by Creative Director Jose Ramirez, and processed all paperwork for the donation to Locks of Love. Vanis Salon will donate the cut and style for anyone making a Locks of Love donation, according to Chris Valavanis, Owner. Sheffield's donation was inspired by his association with the Nick's Liquors chain, who actively supports and sponsors annual fundraising events to benefit Nazareth Home. Thanks to everyone for the double donation!



# Reflection

By Sister Peg Spindler, CSA

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and the Congregation of St. Agnes (my community) share the value of Community. Jesus and Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of the Reign of God, the "Beloved Community." What is this notion of community?

I resist defining things like Community. I can only describe some characteristics of healthy community—whether in the home, the convent, the church congregation, the neighborhood, a city, state, nation, group of nations or the global community. And I hesitate to do so since community is so wondrously complex and beautifully organic. But I plunge in because I believe deeply that community and its healthy holistic living is what the world hungers for. It is what is being forged here at Sojourner Truth House (STH) and what needs to be more intentionally built. I think it is the infrastructure of humanity, really of all creation, though consciously of humanity. While we here at STH do not construct buildings or roads or sidewalks or sewer lines--the physical infrastructure of a community--I think we attempt to help build what I might call the "psychic/spiritual infrastructure" that makes for real community.

How? Well, from the moment a homeless client and her children walk through our doors, they are treated with respect. They are welcomed, their fears are addressed, their need for some kind of structure is met with our schedule and expectations of them. They are listened to with reverence (sometimes with downright awe) and encouraged to stay with the program. Their physical needs are met with clothing, nutritious meals and snacks, personal hygiene items and an assessment regarding their medical concerns. We surround them with the comfort and the challenge of human community hopefully at its best.

We staff, volunteers, new board members and Ancilla Systems Incorporated co-workers represent the marvelous diversity of the human species and are committed to the mission of STH. We create community among ourselves, so that we can then do so with our clients. When I look at the classes and counseling sessions we offer, the efforts we make to know peoples' names and stories, I see us building a community. When I see us challenging a client or an agency toward their best selves, that is what a healthy community does within itself. When a woman begins the painful climb out of addiction or mental illness with our support, community heals itself. When people, like yourselves, step up to the plate and donate or come to volunteer, I see those in the community who have a little more, helping those with less, make a way. When all of us work to save the environment, speak up for universal health care, insist on civil rights for all our brothers and sisters, community is sparked. When we work through our issues with one another, we strengthen the foundation of—you guessed it—community. When we work at speaking and acting nonviolently, inclusively and mutually, we create a community whose power is "power with" rather than "power over." These communitarian values of acceptance, reconciliation, mutuality, reverent listening, comfort, challenge, courage, honesty, doing our own personal work and creating the space for others to do theirs without judgment—among many others—can be detected readily at STH. As we become more intentional in this striving, I realize we are building the "psychic/spiritual infrastructure" for the community of Gary and beyond. We dream of sharing this awareness and these learnings with the wider community. Partner with us in doing so. The world is starved for true, strong community. Let us not disappoint

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## Volunteer View

By Charlene Van Sickle



Being a volunteer at Sojourner Truth House has been a growth experience for me. People we see live with greater faith than I have been required to exercise in my life. Ninety-nine percent of them respond to a greeting of "How are you today?" with a smile and an "I'm Blessed."

We work with the community-based clients who come to obtain food, personal care items, and clothing. Believe me, they give me much more than I give them. How

my heart melted when one lady presented me with a pen she wanted me to have. A gentleman walked to Sojourner Truth House—on crutches—just to thank me for the new crutch tips I had procured for him.

We interview each one, trying to determine if there are

other resources to which we can direct them. One of my fellow volunteers was able to motivate a gentleman who could not read to attend literacy classes. We all rejoiced with him when he accomplished his goal.

Another client was able to obtain a job. We nearly danced! Others are receiving an extra \$96.40 in their small social security checks after we identified their eligibility for state payment of their Medicare premium. Through the efforts of Sojourner Truth House, many now have health care and medication who could not afford it previously.

Although our volunteers come from different towns and vocational backgrounds, we all share a philosophy of caring, and a commitment to treat all with dignity. We work as advocates to connect these clients with the resources they need to improve the quality of their lives. These efforts have led to relationships that include sharing their triumphs, joys, and sorrows, and sometimes we just have fun together.



## 4th Annual Reunion Draws More than 100 Guests

More than one hundred former foster children, adoptive families, staff, friends, and volunteers gathered on Saturday August 1st at Riley Park in East Chicago for the 4th Annual Reunion of Nazareth Home children and their families. Nineteen former Nazareth Home residents, both recent and from several years ago, attended the party to reconnect with staff and volunteers. To date, 127 children have been cared for at Nazareth Home. Check out the photos below from the celebration!



## 2009 Fall Wish List

### Child Needs:

- Night Diapers sizes 4 & 5, Overnights (size medium)
- Johnson's baby products
- Aveeno Baby Lotion & Baby Bath
- Aquaphor
- Vicks Baby Rub
- Playtex Diaper Genie Refills (blue & green)
- Baby wipes
- Pacifiers
- Baby oil
- Desitin

### Household Needs:

- Paper towels
- Puffs tissue
- Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D)
- Dreft laundry soap
- Woolite soap

### Gift Certificates For:

- Grocery stores
- Department stores
- Gas stations
- Office Max

### Miscellaneous Needs:

- Flash drives
- Photo albums – 4x6 double style
- Card table & chairs



### Mission Statement

It is the mission of Nazareth Home, a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, to care for poor and powerless infants and children, those unable to speak for themselves, by providing them with a loving, caring and stable beginning.

## Baby Registry

www.kohls.com  
 www.toysrus.com  
 www.walmart.com/giftregistry  
 www.target.com

First Name: Nazareth  
 Last Name: Home

# Introducing the Stellar Staff of Sojourner Truth House

It's been quite a while since we took the time to send out kudos to the staff of Sojourner Truth House for all their dedicated hard work. In this issue, we are featuring the Support Services and Maintenance/Household Coordination Teams. We also want to acknowledge the awesome volunteers who support us in our work on a daily basis. Look for the Case Management and Administrative Teams in the next issue!

## Support Services Team



Sister Willa Schoch, CSA  
Support Services Associate  
(volunteer)



LaQuita Clayton  
Support Services Coordinator



Consuelo Halliburton  
Support Services Associate

## Maintenance/Household



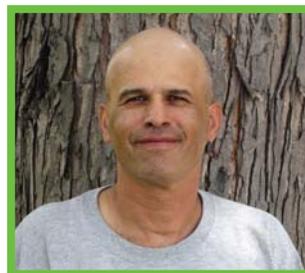
Harold Moses  
Transportation Coordinator



Lawrence Suggs  
Maintenance Assistant



Lillian Beasley  
Household Coordinator



Saul Barbosa  
Facilities Maintenance Coordinator

## A Special Thank You...

...to Intern Morgan LeAnne House for stepping in to become our Cook for the summer. She did a fabulous job of handling kitchen duties and making sure that clients and staff had a nutritious and delicious meal everyday. Good Luck Morgan in your sophomore year at Spellman College in Atlanta!

## Save the Date!

Back by popular demand!  
You are cordially invited  
To stay at home...

While you participate in the 5th Annual  
Thanksgiving Non-Event Gala for Sojourner Truth House!  
Saturday, November 28, 2009  
Check your mailbox in October for details